REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1, 3, 4, and 8 have been amended, and claims 2 and 5-7 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1, 3, 4, and 8-12 are currently pending in the application, of which claim 1 is an independent claim.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above amendments do not add new matter to the application and are fully supported by the specification.

In view of the above amendments and the following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and timely withdrawal of the pending rejections for the reasons discussed below.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

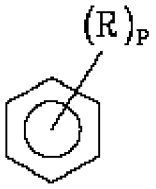
Claims 1-4 and 9-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 11-273731, filed by Naoki ("Naoki").

To establish an obviousness rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), four factual inquiries must be examined. The four factual inquiries include (a) determining the scope and contents of the prior art; (b) ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims in issue; (c) resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art; and (d) evaluating evidence of secondary consideration. *Graham v. John Deere*, 383 U.S. I, 17-18 (1966). In view of these four factors, the analysis supporting a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) should be made explicit, and should "identify a reason that would have prompted a person of ordinary skill in the relevant field to combine the [prior art] elements" in the manner claimed. *KSR Int'l. Co. v. Telefex, Inc.*, 127 S. Ct. 1727, 82 USPQ2d 1385, 1396 (2007). Furthermore, even if the prior art may be combined, the combination must disclose or suggest all of the claim limitations. *See in re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

Assuming *arguendo* that the prior art elements could be combined, the combined prior art elements do not disclose or suggest every claimed feature.

Amended claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

> wherein the non-aqueous organic solvent comprises a mixed solvent of a carbonate solvent and an aromatic hydrocarbon solvent, and
> wherein the aromatic hydrocarbon solvent is at least one selected from the group consisting of fluorobenzene, fluorotoluene, trifluorotoluene, and a compound of Formula (1):



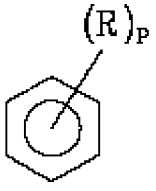
> where R is a halogen, or a C_1 to C_{10} alkyl, and p is an integer of 1 to 6, where p is 3 to 6 when R is a C_1 alkyl

Naoki fails to teach or suggest at least such features.

Claims 5-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Naoki as applied to claim 1 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,645,671, issued to Tsutsumi, et al. ("Tsutsumi").

Amended claim 1, which includes the limitations of canceled claims 5-7, recites, *inter alia*:

> wherein the non-aqueous organic solvent comprises a mixed solvent of a carbonate solvent and an aromatic hydrocarbon solvent, and
> wherein the aromatic hydrocarbon solvent is at least one selected from the group consisting of fluorobenzene, fluorotoluene, trifluorotoluene, and a compound of Formula (1):



> where R is a halogen, or a C_1 to C_{10} alkyl, and p is an integer of 1 to 6, where p is 3 to 6 when R is a C_1 alkyl

Naoki in view of Tsutsumi fails to teach or suggest at least such features.

Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Naoki as applied to claim 11 in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0177027, applied for by Yeager, et al. ("Yeager").

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is allowable over Naoki, and Yeager fails to cure the deficiencies of Naoki noted above with regard to claim 1. Hence, claim 12 is allowable at least because it depends from an allowable claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claims 1, 8, and 12. Claims 3, 4, and 8-12 depend from claim 1 and are allowable at least for this reason. Since none of the other prior art of record discloses or suggests all the features of the claimed invention, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1, and all the claims that depend therefrom, are allowable.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the pending Office Action and respectfully submit that all of the stated grounds for rejection have been overcome or rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are allowable and that the application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the number below to expedite prosecution.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

/hae-chan park/

Hae-Chan Park
Reg. No. 50,114

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CUSTOMER NUMBER: 58027
H.C. Park & Associates, PLC
8500 Leesburg Pike
Suite 7500
Vienna, VA 22182
Tel: 703-288-5105
Fax: 703-288-5139
HCP/YYK/YDC